

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
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INFO CIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1640

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 3)

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MORG MASS LE PINT  
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: UNIFIL AND LEBANESE PLANNING

1. DATT MET WITH GENERAL KHOURY SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 25,  
FOLLOWING VISIT OF GENERALS SIILASVUO AND ERSKINE TO THE MOD  
AND KHOURY'S SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS.

2. MEETING WITH SIILASVUO AND ERSKINE. KHOURY WAS FAVORABLY  
IMPRESSED BY ERSKINE'S MILITARY KNOWLEDGE AND SIILASVUO'S  
POLITICAL ACUMENT. KHOURY SAID UN NOT REALLY AWARE OF PROBLEMS  
THEY HAVE TO DEAL WITH IN THE SOUTH AND HE TOLD THEM THAT THEIR  
INITIAL DEPLOYMENT TO TYRE ALONGSIDE PALESTINIANS WAS A MOVE  
THEY WOULD REGRET. HE FELT THAT THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN IN MUCH  
BETTER SITUATION HAD THEY SITED THEMSELVES FURTHER SOUTH, JUST  
NORTH OF IDF, AND THEN BEGAN DISCUSSIONS TO GET PALESTINIANS  
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NORTH OF LITANI. HE SAID UN LACKS MILITARY PUNCH AND  
PALESTINIANS TOO TOUGH TO COOPERATE WILLINGLY. HE  
DOESN'T THINK PALESTINIAN FIGHTERS WILL LEAVE TYRE.  
HE SAID HE TOLD THIS TO UN GENERALS BUT THEY LACK  
EXPERIENCE OF DEALING WITH THE COMPLEX PALESTINIAN  
PROBLEM. (COMMENT: FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE TOLD DATT  
THAT FRENCH UNIFIL CONTINGENT COMMANDER NOT HAPPY WITH

THE PALESTINIAN SITUATION IN TYRE AND THAT HE EXPECTS TROUBLE WITH PALESTINIANS. FOR THEIR PART, THE PALESTINIANS HAVE BEEN ORGANIZING SMALL UNITS FOR INFILTRATION INTO IDF-HELD TERRITORY, ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCE 6 857 0121. THIS SOURCE REPORTS THAT THERE ARE 50 IRAQIS IN TYRE WHOM PALESTINIANS HAVE ASKED TO MOVE SOUTHEAST TO THE MOUNTAINS WITH THEM, BUT THE IRAQIS REFUSED. SOURCE ALSO REPORTS THAT THERE ARE 200 IRAQIS SCATTERED IN KFAR RUMAN-NABATIYAH AREA, BUT RESIDENTS OF SOUTH UNAWARE OF OTHER LARGE CONCENTRATIONS. OTHER SOURCE FROM SOUTH REPORT LARGEST PALESTINIAN CONCENTRATIONS ARE ALONG COASTAL ROAD BETWEEN SIDON AND TYRE. SOURCES ALSO REPORT PALESTINIAN ARTILLERY NEARLY INTACT IN THE JABAL RIHAN AND SOUTHERNMOST DEPLOYMENT OF SYRIANS IN MIMIS 3325N-3543E.)

3. LEBANESE ARMY TO SOUTH. KHOURY SAID LEBANESE ARMY WOULD HAVE TO MOVE SOUTH WITHIN NEXT 10-12 DAYS. HE SAID NOT CLEAR WHETHER THEY WILL GO NORTH OR SOUTH OF LITANI. IF SYRIANS (AND ISRAELIS) CANNOT BE PERSUADED, KHOURY NOT KEEN ON HAVING TO DEPLOY BETWEEN ZAHRANI AND LITANI RIVERS BECAUSE THIS MAY MEAN FIGHTING WITH THE PALESTINIANS. IF SYRIAN ADF AGREES TO MOVE TO LITANI, LAF WOULD DEPLOY SOUTH OF LITANI INTO AS YET UNSPECIFIED AREAS. HE SAID THAT UN PLAN FOR SOUTH NOT YET COMPLETE AND HIS FORCES MIGHT BE ON LING ALONG

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LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER OR THEY MAY TAKE ONE ENTIRE SECTOR OF THE SOUTH. HE PLANS TO DEPLOY A 3,000-MAN FORCE WITHIN TWO WEEKS BUILT AROUND A THREE MECHANIZED INFANTRY BATTALION BRIGADE WITH AN ARTILLERY BATTALION (12X122MM D-30 HOWITZERS), A TANK UNIT (AT LEAST SIX AMX TANKS), TWO ARMORED CAR COMPANIES (SALADINS), TWO MP COMPANIES AND VSRIIOUS COMBAT SUPPORT AND SERVICE UNITS. KHOURY SAID SIILASVUO HAPPY TO HEAR THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME FRIENDLY ARTILLERY AND ASKED ABOUT COORDINATING ITS USE WITH UNIFIL, IN CASE OF EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT. KHOURY CONSIDERING SETTING UP PERMANENT LIAISON CENTER IN NAQUORA, AN INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGE PROGRAM AND A LIAISON UNIT FOR EACH UNIFIL TACTICAL HEADQUARTERS. (COMMENT: DESPITE KHOURY'S UNCERTAINTY ABOUT AREA OF DEPLOYMENT, HIS STAFF WAS WORKING LATE SAME AFTERNOON TO PREPARE FOR LAF DEPLOYMENT ALONG ISRAELI BORDER. THEIR GENERAL PLANNING GUIDANCE WAS THAT UN WOULD BE ON SOUTH BANK OF LITANI AT THREE BRIDGE SITES AND LITANI. LAF WOULD DEPLOY ALONG BORDER AND AREAS IN BETWEEN WOULD BE COVERED BY PATROLLING AND OUTPOSTING.)

4. IRAQI CONVOYS. RECENT ARRIVAL OF IRAQI SUPPLIES  
AND VOLUNTEERS ARE A GREAT DANGER TO SYRIANS' POSITION  
IN LEBANON ACCORDING TO KHOURY AND HE CLAIMED TO HAVE  
PERSUADED PRESIDENT SARKIS TO SEND ADF COMMANDER SAMI  
KHATIB TO SEE SYRIAN CHIEF OF STAFF SHIHABI IN ORDER  
TO GET SYRIAN CONCURRENCE ON ADF INTRUSION BAN WHICH  
WAS PUBLISHED MARCH 23. KHOURY SAID THAT THE SYRIANS  
HAVE ALLOWED A TIME BOMB TO BE PLACED IN SOUTH LEBANON  
WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE IRAQIS. HE WAS OPTIMISTIC  
ABOUT SYRIAN ADF ENFORCEMENT OF THE BAN AND HE DID NOT  
EXPECT MORE VOLUNTEERS TO ARRIVE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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